

FLYING FACTS

Kamnik 2024

On behalf of this year's press group and our school it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Slovenija, the picturesque town of Kamnik, and our school. Kamnik, our charming little town, offers a perfect blend of historical charm and modern vibrancy, making it a perfect town to host YPAC. We are delighted to have you with us.

Žan Gerič, Editor in Chief



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Welcome again to yet another YPAC week, this time in Kamnik!

It's great to see so many people who are interested in politics and making the alpine region a better and more sustainable area to live in. This year the main themes are protected natural areas of the Alpine region, their challenges and problems.

Though it may be difficult to find postulations, taking into account that every country has different laws, regulations and strategies on protected areas in the Alps and bringing everyone's opinions and views together might not be the easiest thing this year, but it's definitely going to create interesting and lively discussions. Luckily, this is exactly what the YPAC stands for.

With the topics of Biodiversity, Quality of Life, Climate Change and Cultural Diversity, you have a lot of ground to cover and complex questions to solve. Especially climate change has always been an important part of YPAC's resolutions, since it is becoming more prominent and urgent than ever. We're already experiencing the effects of climate change everywhere around the world so its importance cannot be dismissed.

The work you have done today, no matter if you have already started to formulate postulations or not, will be crucial for your final postulations at the General Assembly on Thursday. For now, I hope you had a very productive and insightful first day but also had fun and made new connections and friendships.

Best wishes,
Franziska Schroeder, Editor in Chief

OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

The first day of the YPAC week started with an interesting presentation by Dr. Peter Skoberne, the former director of the Triglav National Park in Slovenia. He explained the importance of biodiversity and how social aspects are affected by climate change and mass extinction. Coming from a biological background, he also talked about the loss of connection to nature in the modern age and the importance of understanding the nature we're surrounded by.

After that the delegates started working inside their assigned committees.



The opening lecture

Inside committee 1

While brainstorming and discussing the field of biodiversity under the umbrella topic "protected natural areas", the delegates of Committee 1 took the first step in tackling this year's YPAC this morning on Tuesday 12th March. Teamwork is the key in the days to come.

The delegates already contributed many different approaches to the problems they identified. For example, to handle the problem of incorrect waste disposal, one group proposed the introduction of fines for such behavior. The resulting money would go directly to NGOs which focus on saving the environment so the money would be put to good use. One issue the students focused on is creating awareness of the present problems. The delegates therefore talked about workshops and possible events in school so the work for a better understanding of our environment would begin at a young age. In school, the students could learn about how to identify certain invasive species and how to deal with them.

Of course, a big part of the Alpine economy is tourism. On the other hand it is also a big contributor to environmental and ecological destruction. Getting rid of it totally is neither a realistic nor a useful idea, so the students aim to find the balance between economy and ecology. This could be accomplished through more environmentally friendly hotels or places to stay overnight in general, such as slightly modified forms of camping, for example.

Overall, Committee 1 is looking forward to the best postulations and a generally productive week in Slovenia.

-Timo Risch, Clément Martin



Committee 1 at work

Inside committee 2

Committee 2 immediately started with an interesting discussion about the quality of life in the Alps. They brainstormed and presented possible solutions to improve the quality of life in the Alps without damaging the protected areas.

The committee was further divided into three groups that discussed more specific problems. The first group talked about tourism. They are trying to find a solution to keep the tourism in protected areas but ensuring that they aren't damaged. Their idea is to make an entrance fee as a ticket to visit protected areas. You could buy a ticket over the Internet or on the spot. The number of tickets is limited and with that, they could control the number of people entering the protected area. Like that, you get less mass tourism.



view from Kamnik from the little castle

The second group talked about demographic challenges. Their main objective is to develop a resolution to encourage people to stay in the protected areas and prevent massive exode. However, it is crucial to consider that the protected areas shouldn't be overpopulated. However they propose to invite young people by giving them jobs and opportunities to live in the protected areas. The last group's main topic is to improve the protected areas with restrictions. They propose that all areas in the Alps have the same protective laws but they can be adapted to the features and specific needs of the protected areas.

-Katja Žgank, Emma Sodeur



Mammoth statue in Kamnik

At around 13:00 we all went out to see Kamnik for the first time before coming back to school and continuing to work on populations.

Later experts joined in and gave their opinions and views on the work of the committees.

The time went by way too quick and before you know it, it was already time for dinner and the grand opening ceremony, in which we were even joined by the Slovenian president, dr. Nataša Pric Musar.



GSŠRM's professor during the sightseeing

Inside committee 3

Climate change seems unstoppable. So does the ambition of the 14 members of committee 3. After getting to know each other, they were ready to hustle. A brainstorming session started the discussion about climate change in relation to Protected Natural Areas. The three most important aspects emerged quickly. To maintain a structure the committee got divided into three groups, with each working on one of these topics:



1. **Water management:** Rising temperature leads to the melting of glaciers. Therefore it's necessary to store water in valleys. In addition weather-extremes like rainstorms cause torrential rivers and landslides. We have to keep enough distance and practice reforestation.
2. **Alternatives of tourism:** A proposal was to provide Nanotourism, a sustainable upcoming form of tourism, that encourages the exchange between tourists and the local community for a high quality-stay. There should also be alternatives to skiing like snowhiking and cross-country skiing. To reduce traffic, the parking prices should be higher.
3. **Energy:** We should use renewable sources, reduce CO2 and greenhouse gases. An idea was to create a bonus for sustainable energy production, which would be located nearby protected natural areas.

But the work doesn't stop here. Yet, there is much left to do and the committee will keep creating more specific solutions.

-Manca Petek, Laura Peintner

Interview with Theresa Senkel (Sonthofen)

Why do you participate in YPAC?

It's a great possibility to meet people from the alpine region and to make new friends. YPAC is also a lifetime experience and a way to make a change.

How many times have you participated already?

2021, 2022, 2023 and this year. In total four times, including this year's YPAC.

What do you think is the biggest political problem nowadays?

The lack of peace worldwide

Name three adjectives describing you:

ambitious, kind-hearted, adventurous



Inside committee 4

Culture is widely known as one of the basic pillars behind the creation of human civilization and it is no exception when it comes to the Alpine region.

The committee thinks that balance should be also emphasized in cultural aspects of the Alpine people. The delegates argued about pros and cons of tourism, education and traditions in the Alpine regions. According to the CPs of cultural heritage, education regarding awareness of passing generational knowledge to young and creating a learning path could be a possible way to protect the natural areas, as well as providing one hour of lessons to the students regularly might work to protect the concerned areas.

Tourism is one of the major problems faced by the Alpine countries. The delegates came up with a solution of imposing penalties regarding waste and pollution to control the negative externalities occurring in those regions. They also suggested advertising (e.g.: Saying no to plastic) as much as possible to solve the issue.

The delegates are also aware of the fact that tourism holds most of the revenue in those regions which cannot be avoided. The delegates stated the real life examples of their respective countries to connect the real life implication of the solutions to the problems.

The experts are giving insight and are looking forward to the solutions. Ultimately, they concluded that local Alpine people should be the priority as it is their land.

In addition, both parties agreed that cultural heritage is not less important than any other aspect when it comes to the Alpine regions. Excess tourism hinders the local culture. Therefore, awareness through education could be a way to approach these problems.

-Anamarjia Mušič, Huq Md Tasin Ibn

Interview with Eliane Schädler (Vaduz) (C1)

Why did you decide to join YPAC? What convinced you?

I think the whole concept is great, and you can actually make a positive impact. I first heard about it through the school.

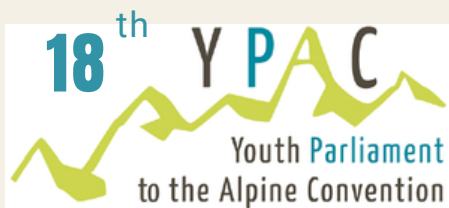
What are you trying to achieve? What are you looking forward to? Is there anything you are worried about?

I am hoping to get our argument through and have a good experience in general. I am a bit worried about presenting in front of so many people.

How have you experienced the YPAC so far?

Everything here is very open and friendly. I had a good time so far. Kamnik is a beautiful city, small but charming.

Thank you for reading, see you tomorrow :)



Občina Kamnik
Glavni trg 24, 1240 Kamnik



GIMNAZIJA IN
SREDNJA ŠOLA
RUDOLFA MAISTRA